

Please find below important information and telephone numbers regarding the January 12 earthquake in Haiti:

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### Haiti Earthquake Resources

*To the people of Haiti, we say clearly, and with conviction, you will not be forsaken; you will not be forgotten. In this, your hour of greatest need, America stands with you. The world stands with you. We know that you are a strong and resilient people. You have endured a history of slavery and struggle, of natural disaster and recovery. And through it all, your spirit has been unbroken and your faith has been unwavering. So today, you must know that help is arriving -- much, much more help is on the way.*

- President Barack Obama, 1/14/10

The thoughts and prayers of the entire Congress are with the people of Haiti. The United States and Members of Congress remain committed to helping the Haitian people recover from this latest disaster and rebuild their homes, communities, and lives in the days and weeks to come. The Obama Administration has launched a swift, coordinated and aggressive effort to save lives and support the recovery in Haiti, including an immediate investment of \$100 million to support the relief efforts for life-saving equipment, food, water and medicine that will be needed.

### Looking For Relatives

Families of Americans living in Haiti who are trying to find the status of their loved ones are encouraged to contact the State Department at 1-888-407-4747. This line is experiencing a high volume of calls at this time, so some callers may receive a recording. To better handle these requests, the State Department has established an e-mail address as well: [Haiti-Earthquake@state.gov](mailto:Haiti-Earthquake@state.gov)

A top priority of the State Department is accounting for the thousands of American citizens who are currently in Haiti. US citizens in Haiti have been urged to contact the Embassy via email at [ACSPaP@state.gov](mailto:ACSPaP@state.gov) to request assistance or call the Embassy's Consular Task Force at 509-2229-8942, 509-2229-8089, 509-2229-8322, or 509-2229-8672.

The Red Cross has also set up a Family Links website managed by the ICRC, in cooperation with the tracing services of the Haitian Red Cross Society and of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies throughout the world, to assist in the process of restoring contact between separated family members:

- [Family Links website for Haiti»](#)
- [Cette page en français»](#)

### More Resources

- [White House»](#)
- [State Department»](#)
- [USAID»](#)

### Assistance for Haiti Relief Efforts

The State Department has established a dedicated web page that offers advice for anyone wishing to provide assistance to those affected by the earthquake:

- [State Department Haiti Earthquake website»](#)

The Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) provides information and guidance in support of appropriate international disaster relief:

- [Center for International Disaster Information \(CIDI\) website»](#)

### Haitian Earthquake Relief Fraud Alert

The FBI has issued a fraud alert, reminding Internet users who receive appeals to donate money in the aftermath of Tuesday's earthquake in Haiti to apply a critical eye and do their due diligence before responding to those requests. Past tragedies and natural disasters have prompted individuals with criminal intent to solicit contributions purportedly for a charitable organization and/or a good cause. Therefore, before making a donation of any kind, consumers should adhere to certain guidelines, to include the following:

- Do not respond to any unsolicited (spam) incoming e-mails, including clicking links contained within those messages.
- Be skeptical of individuals representing themselves as surviving victims or officials asking for donations via e-mail or social networking sites.
- Verify the legitimacy of nonprofit organizations by utilizing various Internet-based resources that may assist in confirming the group's existence and its nonprofit status rather than following a purported link to the site.
- Be cautious of e-mails that claim to show pictures of the disaster areas in attached files because the files may contain viruses. Only open attachments from known senders.
- Make contributions directly to known organizations rather than relying on others to make the donation on your behalf to ensure contributions are received and used for intended purposes.
- Do not give your personal or financial information to anyone who solicits contributions: Providing such information may compromise your identity and make you vulnerable to identity theft.

Anyone who has received an e-mail referencing the above information or anyone who may have been a victim of this or a similar incident should notify the Internet Crime Complaint Center at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov).

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### From The White House:

#### **UPDATE ON THE SITUATION IN HAITI January 13, 2009 AMERICAN CITIZEN WELFARE**

**- The Haiti Earthquake Task Force has set up a number to call to relay information concerning American Citizens. That number is 1-888-407-4747.**

- Due to heavy volume, some callers may receive a recording. We apologize for any wait you have to endure, but we are absolutely committed to helping you find your loved ones.

#### **HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN QUEUE**

- The President made it clear that he expects an aggressive, coordinated effort by the U.S. government.

- To make that happen, each agency – the State Department, Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, Coast Guard, USAID – has worked overnight to ensure that critical resources are positioned to support the response and recovery effort, including efforts to find and assist American citizens in Haiti.

- Two U.S. Coast Guard cutters will be on site within one day.
- Two C-130 cargo aircraft in Puerto Rico are standing by.
- USAID is beginning to coordinate U.S. assistance to Haiti and has placed Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Virginia Task Force 1 (VA-TF1) and the California Task Force 2 (CA-TF2) on mobilization status.
- Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DARTs) are ready and preparing to travel.
- SOUTHCOM is actively searching for critical assets like helicopters that can be made available.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE SEVERELY AFFECTED**

- Aftershocks were still severe early January 13. A team traveled out to the airport; roads remained crowded with people but are usable. Communications still remain poor. Post estimates there are 45,000 U.S. citizens in Haiti as a result of dual citizenship.

### **INFORMATION ON CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS**

- We're also encouraging Americans to support relief efforts through charitable cash donations. Both the White House and the State Department are facilitating donations to the International Red Cross through their websites.
- Below are links to the Center for International Disaster Information's (CIDI) Guidelines and FAQ. The Guidelines are also available in French and Kreyol.
- [http://www.cidi.org/guidelines/guide\\_in.htm](http://www.cidi.org/guidelines/guide_in.htm)
- <http://www.cidi.org/media/faq.htm>

**From the U.S. Embassy in Haiti:**

This Warden Message is to apprise U.S. Citizens of the latest information available regarding the earthquake of January 12.

On January 12 at approximately 5:30 p.m., an earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale struck near Port Au Prince, followed by multiple aftershocks. There are reports of extensive damage, and communications remain extremely difficult. Additional aftershocks remain a possibility. The U.S. Embassy is working to ascertain the extent of the damage and check on the status of U.S. citizens around the island.

U.S. citizens in Haiti should remain in shelter. If exposed when an aftershock hits, seek shelter immediately or try to get to open space, away from buildings and other structures. If indoors, take shelter under a heavy table or desk, or in a doorway.

U.S. citizens in Haiti should seek safe shelter and remain there. Avoid damaged buildings, and obey all instructions from local authorities. Do not use flame in case of disrupted gas lines. Avoid downed power lines. If possible, please contact friends and relatives outside of Haiti to inform them of your welfare.

**The U.S. Embassy in Port Au Prince has set up a task force at the Embassy which is taking calls as conditions permit. The Embassy is working to identify Americans in Haiti who need urgent assistance and to identify sources of emergency help. Americans are urged to contact the Embassy via email at [ACSPaP@state.gov](mailto:ACSPaP@state.gov) to request assistance. Americans in Haiti can call the Embassy's Consular Task Force at 509-2229-8942, 509-2229-8089, 509-2229-8322, or 509-2229-8672. The State Department has also created a task force to monitor the emergency. People in the U.S. or Canada with information or inquiries about U.S. citizens in Haiti may reach the Haiti Task Force at 888-407-4747. Outside of the U.S. and Canada, call 202-501-4444.**